

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03060 021301Z

44

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INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

S E C R E T USNATO 3060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL, UK

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITIES

REF: PHONECON OASD(ISA)- MCLAUGHLIN/USNATO-CLINARD OF MAY 30, 1975.

1. REF PHONECON REQUESTED INFORMATION ON NETHERLANDS AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY. RESEARCH MATERIAL AVAILABLE LOCALLY REVEALS FOLLOWING:

A. ACCORDING TO NETHERLANDS REPLY TO DPQ(74), NETHERLANDS MARINE CORPS EARMARKS TWO AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT GROUPS OF BATTALION SIZE AND ONE MOUNTAIN ARCTIC WARFARE COMPANY (TOTAL PEACETIME PERSONNEL STRENGTH 1206) TO NATO, OUR OF OVERALL PEACETIME PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF 2800.

B. NETHERLANDS DEFENSE WHITE PAPER OF JULY, 1974 ENTITLED "OUR VERY EXISTENCE AT STAKE" EMPHASIZES TOTAL SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 03060 021301Z

RELIANCE OF THESE NORTHERN FLANK REINFORCEMENT UNITS ON COOPERATION WITH UK ROYAL MARINES, SINCE NETHERLANDS HAS NO AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITY.

C. UK WHITE PAPER OF MARCH, 1975 DETAILS REDUCTION IN ITS AMPHIBIOUS LIFT CAPABILITIES. IN SUMMARY, ONE OF TWO COMMANDDO SHIPS (BULWARK) WILL BE PHASED OUT IN 1976; SECOND (HERMES) WILL BE CONVERTED TO ASW ROLE, WITH COMMANDO ROLE SECONDARY; NUMBER OF ASSAULT SHIPS (LPD) IN READY STATUS WILL BE REDUCED FROM TWO TO ONE. UK WHITE PAPER DOES NOT MENTION UK/NETHERLANDS LINK FOR AMPHIBIOUS LIFT.

D. SACLANT ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF UK DEFENSE REVIEW DECISIONS (POUCHED JAN 17, REG. NO. 5349) NOTES THAT UK REDUCTIONS "WILL ALSO AFFECT THE NETHERLANDS MARINES WHOSE OPERATIONS ARE INTEGRATED WITH THE ROYAL MARINES."

2. WE HAVE NO MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING EXTENT OF REDUCTION IN NETHERLANDS AMPHIBIOUS LIFT BY UK. PRESUMABLY, HOWEVER, THE REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UK, NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY. PERHAPS EMBASSIES LONDON, THE HAGUE AND OSLO COULD CONTRIBUTE FURTHER DETAILS.
BRUCE

SECRET

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL, UK
To: STATE
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